

STATE OF THE UNION.

MEMORIAL AND RESOLUTIONS

OF

A CONVENTION OF THE CONSTITUTIONAL UNION PARTY
OF NEW HAMPSHIRE,

ON

The disturbed condition of the country.

FEBRUARY 1, 1861.—Referred to the select committee of five, and ordered to be printed.

Whereas the representatives of a party based upon an adherence to the Union, the Constitution, and the enforcement of the laws, met in convention on the 9th of May, 1860. at Baltimore, and promulgated a platform and nominated candidates; and whereas the action of that convention meets our cordial approval; and whereas we have this day met in aid of the adoption by the people of New Hampshire of the purposes of that convention:

Resolved, That the constitutional Union party regard the federal Union as the result of the common efforts, privations and sufferings of our fathers, through eight long years of war, to secure the independence for all the States, and that every State under the Constitution is entitled, equally with every other, to the common privileges and blessings which the Union was formed to secure.

Resolved, That the preservation of this Union is among the purest, noblest, and holiest objects of a Christian's hope and patriot's desire; that, in view of the glorious memories of the past, and because to it we are indebted for all the blessings vouched to this people, we regard the Union as the sheet-anchor of all our hopes for the future.

Resolved, That we will maintain inviolate the Constitution of our country as the common tie which should bind together all the States in the bands of brotherly love and fraternal feeling; that we will yield a cheerful and willing obedience to all the laws enacted in pursuance thereof; and that we favor the immediate repeal of the personal liberty laws, because they are in direct conflict with that provision of the Con-

stitution which provides that "fugitives from service or labor shall be delivered up to the persons to whom such service or labor may be due."

Resolved, That we sincerely regret and deplore the alarming condition of our national affairs, the result of a neglect on the part of the people to heed the warning voice of the Father of his Country against the formation of sectional parties; and no patriot should fail to "indignantly frown upon the first dawning of every attempt to alienate any portion of our country from the rest, or to enfeeble the sacred ties which link together the various parts."

Resolved, That we are opposed to all sectionalism north or south, east or west; that we equally *repudiate* and *condemn* the sectional agitators of the north and the *disunionists* of the south as coadjutors in the accomplishment of the same object—the destruction of the confederacy.

Resolved, That we do most sincerely deprecate the agitation of the distracting question of negro slavery as mischievous in its effects, and dangerous in its tendencies—threatening alike the honor, peace, and welfare of the whole country.

Resolved, That the growing sentiment in favor of secession as exhibited at the south by both words and acts, and the apparent indisposition for conciliation and compromise as exhibited at the north, all impress our minds with the fearful nearness of the catastrophe deplored by the immortal Webster when he said: "When I shall turn my eyes for the last time to behold the sun in the heavens, may I not see him shining on the broken and dishonored fragments of a once glorious Union; on States dissevered, discordant, belligerent; on a land rent with civil feuds, or drenched, it may be, in fraternal blood." That it belongs to all lovers of their country, without regard to party ties, feelings or prejudices, to unite together, and to redouble their exertions to save the land we love, by restoring those fraternal feelings between the people, that harmony between the States which existed in the olden time; and with this view we recommend the following petition be signed by the president and secretary of this convention, and forwarded to Congress now in session, as soon as convenient, for their action.

LUTHER H. BROWN,

Secretary of the Constitutional Union Party of N. H.

CONCORD, N. H., January 8, 1861.

To the honorable Senate and House of Representatives in Congress assembled:

The undersigned, legal voters of the State of New Hampshire, regardless of party distinctions, being deeply impressed with a sense of impending dangers, and unalterably attached to the union of these States, to the end that the blessings of liberty may be preserved to ourselves and transmitted unimpaired to our posterity; and believing that the slavery agitation should hereafter be dropped from party politics, and no longer be permitted to disturb the deliberations of Con-

gress or the peace and harmony of the people ; and believing, further, that every consideration of patriotism, no less than Constitutional regard, requires the immediate and unconditional repeal of all laws directly or indirectly in conflict with the letter or spirit of the Constitution ; and believing, further, that every good citizen should favor not only the existence and faithful execution of laws to effectually restrain all attempts to excite insurrection among the slaves and to entice or steal them from their masters, but also the passage of all other enactments required by comity and fraternal feeling, respectfully petition your honorable bodies to compose the present unhappy difficulties of our common country—

First. By making such arrangement with regard to the Territories as may commend itself to your liberality and patriotism, having due regard to the constitutional rights of each and all the States of the Union.

Second. By the final settlement of the principle that new States shall be admitted to the Union with or without slavery, as the people thereof, in their constitution, shall determine.

Third. By the emphatic enunciation that Congress will not interfere with slavery in the States or in the District of Columbia, nor with the slave trade between the slave States.

Fourth. By providing for the full enjoyment by the slave States of their constitutional right in the rendition of fugitives from service.

ISAAC RIDDLE,

President of the Constitution and Union Convention.

LUTHER H. BROWN,

Secretary of the Constitution and Union Convention.

